

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Filter aid which comprises finely divided wood particles which have been subjected to a chemical liquid treatment, characterized in that the particles have been subjected to a treatment with a dilute alkali solution at a temperature below 100°C and at atmospheric pressure, which removes the sensorially active substances from the wood particles.
2. Filter aids according to claim 1, characterized in that the particles comprise wood fibers.
3. Filter aids according to claim 1, characterized in that the particles comprise wood comminution residues.
4. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it essentially comprises only wood particles of one and the same type, size distribution and pretreatment.
5. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least two fractions of particles comminuted by different processes.
6. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least two fractions of particles comminuted to different dimensions.
7. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises fractions of particles produced from at least two different starting materials.
8. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises other organic or inorganic fractions which do not affect the filtration properties.
9. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises other filter-active fractions.
10. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises other mineral fractions.
11. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises kieselguhr.

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

12. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises perlite.
13. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that the mean particle dimension of the ready-to-use filter aid is below 3.0 mm.
14. Filter aid according to one of claim 1, characterized in that the mean fiber diameter is below 1.0 mm in the case of fibrous particles.
15. Process for producing the filter aid according to claim 1, characterized in that the particles are digested with the dilute alkali solution during a period of action.
16. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the temperature of the dilute alkali solution during the treatment is in the range of room temperature.
17. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the temperature of the dilute alkali solution during treatment is 50-100°C.
18. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the temperature of the dilute alkali solution during the treatment is from 70 to 90°C.
19. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that concentration of the dilute alkali solution is from 2 to 10% by weight, based on the solids content.
20. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the alkali solution used is sodium hydroxide solution.
21. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the period of action is of a duration such that at most 10% by weight on an absolutely dry basis of the wood constituents are removed.
22. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the period of action is from 5 to 120 min.
23. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the consistency during the treatment is from 5 to 25%.

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24. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the particles are washed and dried after the period of action.
25. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the particle size during the treatment is up to 10 mm, preferably from 0.1 to 1.0 mm.
26. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the water value is set by influencing the grinding in the wet phase (refiner).
27. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the particles are further comminuted after the treatment and before the drying, simultaneously with the drying or after the drying.
28. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the particles are classified after the treatment and the drying.
29. The use of finely divided wood particles which have been subjected to a treatment with a dilute alkali solution at a temperature below 100°C and at atmospheric pressure, which treatment removes the sensorially active substances from the wood particles, as filter aid.
30. The use of finely divided wood particles which have been treated according to claim 15 as filter aid.
31. The use according to claim 29 in beverage filtration, in particular beer filtration.
32. The use according to claim 29 in food filtration.
33. The use according to claim 29 in the sector of the cleaning of liquids in the chemicals industry.
34. The use according to claim 29 in the sector of the cleaning of auxiliary liquids in metalworking.
35. The use according to claim 29 in the sector of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.